

# Events leading to Japan's Annexation of Korea

Description: Daewongun was the regent of Chosun during the penultimate rule of King Gojong

Cause: Daewongun's son, King Gojong, was too young to rule the country so his father took over his throne and tried to consolidate sovereign power of the Chosun Dynasty.

Effect: Since Daewongun had strong Confucius mind, he closed interaction between western civilization on Japan. This shows that he looked down on modernized countries like western powers, which led to the annexation of Korea. Moreover, while the Min government, Qing and Japan saw the Donghak army as rebels, Daewongun viewed the events as a social revolution and thought that similar event would happen to Seoul soon too. Therefore, he tried to regain power by getting rid of the Min government, which he allied with Japan. This shows the closer step to Japan's annexation of Korea.

1820 Daewongun

1876 Treaty of Ganghwa

1894 Tonghak Rebellion

1894 Sino-Japanese War

Description: The Japan-Korea Treaty of Amity that is made between representatives of the Empire of Japan and the Kingdom of Chosun in 1876.  
Cause: Korea was too weak and they were vulnerable to European powers, Japanese feared they will threaten them.  
Effect: Opened Korean ports to the trade, allowed interaction between Japan & Korea.

Description: The wars between China and Japan. It weakened China, while helping the Japan gain more power.  
Cause: One of the causes were Kapsin Coup, Japanese failure against the Chinese for reform. Another cause was Tonghak Rebellion.  
Effect: Korea became more independent, and it enabled Japan to promote its influence in Korea, and Japan was recognized as a powerful nation.

Description: A religious(Tonghak: opposed the 'Western Learning')and social movement and concerned with the peasantry and the improvement of their conditions and reform of the corrupt government.

Cause: Tonghak Rebellion rose due to the peasant discontent;high taxes and lack of justice. The Japanese and Chinese presence in Korea also caused the Tonghak Rebellion.

Effect: Korea requested China for help to oppress the Tonghak peasant army because their forces were so strong. China dispatched about 3000 men to help and this action was reported to the Japanese government which the Japanese saw the action as violating the treaty of Tientsin that led directly to Sino Japanese war.

